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INVESTIGATION OF ICE FORMATION IN THE INDUCTION

SYSTEM OF AN AIRCRAFT ENGINE

I - GROUND TESTS

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## MACA AIRCPAFT ENGINE RESEARCH LABORATORY

# MEMORANDUM REPORT

for the

Air Technical Service Command, Army Air Forces

INVESTIGATION OF ICE FORMATION IN THE INDUCTION

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I - GEOUED TESTS

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#### SUMMARY

Ground tests were conducted on a twin-engine fighter airplane to study icing of an induction system incorporating an exhaust-driven turbosupercharger. The ground tests were made to determine the disposition of free water in the induction system of the airplane, to determine the charge-air heat rise available from the turbosupercharger, and to correlate actual airplane-test results with those of laboratory tests.

The icing characteristics of the airplane were studied at engine powers that varied from idling to take-off power with simulated-rain conditions of moderate, heavy, and excessive rain. The effect of the intercooler on the heat content of the charge air was studied at three power settings representative of the full range of engine power. Ambientair temperature varied from 23° to 37° F.

The results obtained in the ground tests indicate that the induction system is susceptible to serious icing only at low engine powers with high water-ingestion rates. The configuration of the induction system is such that the water is removed from the charge air before it reaches the carbureter deck, except when the engine is operated at manifold pressures of 40 inches of mercury and above in simulated excessive rainfall (2 grams/cu m).

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The ground-test results were in agreement with the curves of limiting-icing conditions of temperature and humidity determined in the laboratory. In the ground-test runs during which the intercooler flap was closed, approximately 85 percent of the heat added to the charge air by the turbosupercharger was available for ice prevention or de-icing at the curburetor deck.

#### IMPRODUCTION

Induction systems that incorporate turbosuperchargers. The susceptibility to icing of an induction system with an exhaust-driven turbosupercharger has not been previously investigated. At the request of the Air Technical Service Command, Army Air Forces, laboratory tests were conducted at the NACA Cleveland laboratory of the carburetor and engine supercharger section of the fighter airplane induction system (reference 1). The tests of reference 1 and unpublished tests on a complete engine have demonstrated that dangerous ice formations can occur over a wide range of carburetor-air temperature and humidity.

The ground tests reported herein were made prior to flight tests with the following objectives: (a) to determine what happens to the simulated rain that is sprayed into the induction-system entrance; (b) to obtain data for the determination of the heat rise through the induction system from the turbosupercharger; and (c) to provide data for a preliminary correlation of laboratory and airplane test results. The tests were made from December 1944 to February 1945 in order that the free-air temperatures would be as close to 32° F as possible. Water was injected into the air scoop at rates of 0.275, 0.550, and 1.10 pounds per minute to simulate flight through moderate, heavy, and excessive rain, respectively. The icing characteristics of the airplane induction system were studied at engine 'powers that varied from idling to take-off.

# APPARATUS AND INSTRUMENTATION

The right engine installation of a twin-engine fighter airplane was selected for testing because the single generator of the electrical system is driven by the left engine. In the event of failure of the test engine, electrical power for the operation of the accessories could be supplied by the left engine and in the proposed flight tests level flight could be maintained with one engine up to an altitude of about 25,000 feet.

The induction system (fig. 1) of each engine installation consists of an external air-intake scoop, an exhaust-criven turbosupercharger, a core-type intercooler, an injection-type carburetor, an ongine-stage supercharger, and interconnecting ducting. Charge cir coming through the external scoop as ram air can be taken directly into the turbosupercharger or diverted by means of a selective control into the whoel-well space where it passes through an air filter and then into the turbosupercharger. The turbosuperchargers are mounted on the tops of the tail booms. Control of the turbines is achieved by a linkage that connects the turbine weste gate to the carbureter throttle. This linkage is so adjusted that, when the carburetor throttles are set to approximately the two-thirds open position, the turbine waste gate starts to close. The carburetor throttle angle and the turbine waste-gate angle of the test engine were indicated in the cockpit by means of position indicators installed for the tests.

The simulation of rain was accomplished by injecting water from sprays at the air-scoop entrance and at the intercooler cooling-air-duct entrance. Water-flow rates were measured by means of an orifice plate in the water line to the air scoop and one in the water line to the cooling-air duct of the intercooler. The differential pressures across the orifices were applied to pressure transmitters, which indicated the flow on calibrated gages that had been installed in the cockpit. The temperature of the water was measured at the storage tank and at both spray bars.

Sensitive indicating instruments were installed in the cockpit in order that symptoms of iding could be observed during the ground tests and later during the flight tests. Sensitive manifold-pressure gages were installed on both engines and differential-pressure gages indicated the charge-air pressure drop across the intercoolers. Instrumentation was provided for the measurement and automatic recording of charge-air tomograture, pressure, and humidity at significant points in the induction system. The stations (fig. 1) at which the measurements were made were the air-scoop entrance (station 1), the turbosupercharger entrance (station 2), the intercooler entrance (station 3), and the carbureter deck (station 4). In addition, the static pressure was measured immediately below the carbureter and in the engine manifold. Fuel-air mixture temperatures were measured both at the

supercharger inlet elbow and in the manifold downstream of the engine supercharger. Other temperatures that were recorded include intercooler cooling-air temperature, fuel temperature, accomory-corpartment air temperature, and alternate air temperature measured at the filter inlet. Iron-constantan thermocouples were used to measure all temperatures.

Humidity was determined by conducting samples of charge air to a dew-point meter. The entrances of the sampling tubes were shielded to prevent water droplets from being taken in with the air and the water vapor. Free-air humidity was taken to be the same as that of the air entering the scoop upstream of the point of water injection. The automatic instruments installed in the airplane satisfactorily recorded the test data and were considered suitable for future flight tests as well as for ground tests.

Observations of the free water in the ducting were made through transparent sections in the ducts and through a window in the outboard side of the right engine nacelle (figs. 1 and 2). The rain-separation effectiveness of the induction system was studied by putting drains at the lowest point of the plenum chamber at the bottom of the intercooler, which is the lowest point in the induction system.

The cooling of the engine and the accessories was produced by the propeller slipstream at low powers and supplemented by a cooling-air blower at high powers. (See fig. 2.)

The fuel used throughout the test program conformed to specification AU-T-25. Amendment-2.

## METEOD AND TESTS

In order to make the test conditions as uniform as possible, tests were rin on days when the outside-air temperature was close to 32° F. The air temperatures actually varied between 23° and 37° F.

The simulated-rain water-spray rates used in these tests were calculated by assuming that the rate of water ingestion in flight was directly proportional to the airspeed of the airplane, the projected frontal area of the scoop entrance, and the rain density. These assumptions are valid with rain drops larger than 400 microns. Drops of this size are frequently prevalent in rains of the intensities simulated in these tests. Water-ingestion

rates were calculated for a flight condition in which the true airspeed was 350 miles per hour and the rain densities were 0.5, 1.0, and 2.0 grams per cubic meter. These rain densities correspond approximately to moderate, heavy, and excessive rain, respectively. (See reference 2.) The scoop water-injection rates were 0.275, 0.550, and 1.10 pounds per minute for rain densities of 0.5, 1.0, and 2.0 grams per cubic meter, respectively. The area of the intercooler cooling-air duct entrance was approximately twice that of the scoop and therefore the water-injection rates were doubled for the intercooler duct.

The values of engine speed and manifold pressure prescribed in the pilot's operating instructions were used for take-off, normal rated, and high and low cruise power conditions. At the lowest powers, the manifold pressure was set and the speed used was the lowest that would give smooth operation. The engine speeds corresponding to the manifold pressures selected are listed in the following table:

Manifold pressure (in. Hg absolute)	Engine speed (rpm)	Ergine power
20 25	(a) (a)	
30	5500	Low cruise
35 40	2300 2600	High cruise
43.5	2600	Normal rated
50	2800	
54	3000	Take-off

Engine speed governed by necessity of smooth operation.

Ground tests were run to determine the effect of the various simulated-rain ingestion rates on the charge-air conditions throughout the induction system. Four series of tests represent conditions of no rain (series A), moderate rain (series B), heavy rain (series C), and excessive rain (series D); each series comprised eight runs at the power conditions previously specified (table I). In order to impose the most severe icing conditions possible at the carburctor, the intercooler flap was left in the full-open position in the four series of tests.

The test runs were continued as long as possible to insure stabilization of the charge-air conditions. When no free water

NACA MR No. E6B28

was introduced, 3 minutes was sufficient but 6 minutes was the length of run used when water was injected and the engine was operated above high cruise power. At low powers, when the vibration of the grounded airplane was slight, the tests were continued for 10 minutes.

The effect of the intercooler flap opening on charge-air cooling was studied in ground test series E (table I). This series consisted of nine runs with 1.10 pounds of water per minute injected into the air scoop during all runs. At a manifold pressure of 2C inches of mercury, one run was made with the intercooler flap open and no water injected into the intercooler cooling air, another run with no water injected into cooling air but with the flap closed, and a third run with the flap closed and 2.20 pounds per minute of water sprayed into the intercooler cooling duct. These tests were repeated at manifold pressures of 35 and 50 inches of mercury. The passage of water through the ducts was observed through the observation ports. At the end of each run the water that collected in the intercooler plenum chamber was measured.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of these ground tests are presented in table I and in figures 3 to 10.

<u>Disposition of water</u>. - Observations made during the tests and an analysis of the test data established the disposition of the free water in the induction system. The water was observed to follow three courses:

- 1. A portion of the water that was sprayed into the scoop leaked out into the wheel well through the alternate air valve (fig. 1). This leakage was greatest during operation at low engine power when the induction-system air velocities were lowest.
- 2. Some of the water was swept along the walls of the intercooler duct and was collected in the plenum chamber at the bettem
  of the intercooler. The volume of the plenum chamber was calculated to be 360 cubic inches and the greatest volume of water
  collected after 10 minutes of operation was 43.8 cubic inches.
  In some cases water was blown out of the intercooler toward the
  carbureter, although the intercooler plenum chamber was far from
  filled. At high engine powers the resulting high air velocities
  in the intake ducting caused this blowing over of water.
- 3. Part of the water injected into the air scoop evaporated and was carried through the induction system as vapor.

Moisture content at the carburetor was computed on the basis of vapor content alone for all runs; therefore, the values do not represent the total amount of moisture if water was present.

The approximate free-water disposition in the induction system is shown in figure 3 for the three simulated-rain intensities of these tests. The results indicate that at low manifold pressure (at low charge-air flow rates) practically all of the free water leaks out of the induction system before it reaches the intercooler and very little is vaporized into the charge air. For this reason, large percentages of the water injected cannot be accounted for. The maximum amount of free water in the intercooler plenum chamber never exceeded 16 percent of the initial amount injected.

At high manifold pressures with simulated excessive rain, the charge air at the carburetor deck was saturated and some free water was observed passing from the intercooler to the carburetor deck. At a manifold pressure of 40 inches of mercury and above with simulated heavy and moderate rain, however, the entire amount of injected water was evaporated. The value of manifold pressure at which all the free water was evaporated increased with the amount of injected water, as would be expected.

During these ground tests the turbosupercharger began effective operation at a manifold pressure of about 50 inches of mercury. Because the manifold pressure at which turbosupercharging starts reduces as altitude increases, the enthalpy of the charge air at the carburetor deck is probably greater at altitude than at sea level for a given manifold pressure and charge-air inlet temperature. This enthalpy increase represents an increase in the capacity of the charge air for evaporating water. It is therefore reasonable to expect that the charge-air flow rate or manifold pressure at which all the ingested rain water becomes evaporated would be lower at altitude than at sea level for a given rain intensity.

Heat rise rvailable. - The turbosupercharger put an appreciable amount of heat into the charge-air stream even when the turbine was idling. At the pressure altitudes of these tests (150 to 1025 ft), as previously mentioned, the waste gate did not start to close until the manifold pressure reached approximately 50 inches of mercury; at higher altitudes, the wider throttle openings necessary to obtain the desired manifold pressures would cause the turbine waste gate to start closing at a lower manifold pressure and thereby increase the heat rise from the turbosupercharger.

Under the ground-test conditions, the heat input by the turbosupercharger remained practically constant at a value of approximately 4.5 Ftu per pound of charge air up to a manifold pressure

of 40 inches of mercury. Above 40 inches of mercury, the heat input increased to approximately 11.0 Btu per pound of charge air at a manifold pressure of 54 inches of mercury. These heat increments occurred regardless of the rate of water injection as shown in figure 4.

Although cooling is the function of the intercooler, it is desirable under icing conditions to retain enough of the heat added by the turbosupercharger to prevent icing. As the air passed through the intercooler, much of the heat input was removed except in the cases in which the intercooler flap was in the closed position at low powers. (See fig. 5(a).)

At each of the three power conditions in figure 5, results are shown of a run in which no rain simulation was used and the intercooler flap was full open, of another run in which an excessive rain was simulated with full-open intercooler flap, and of a third run in which the excessive rain was simulated with intercooler flap closed. With the intercooler flap closed, only approximately 65 percent of the heat supplied by the turbosuper-charger was retained after passing the intercooler at the high power runs in which the cooling blower was used.

During the tests at manifold pressures of 20 and 35 inches of mercury (figs. 5(a) and 5(b)), the cooling-air flow to the intercooler was maintained only by the propellor slipstream; whereas, at the high powers (manifold pressure, 40 in. Hg absolute and above) the cooling-air flow was increased as a result of the operation of the cooling blower. It is expected that the air flow through the intercooler was lower in all these ground tests than would be obtained in flight and that the charge-air enthalpy reduction in the intercooler would be greater in flight than was obtained in the ground tests.

Results of icing tests. - Ground-test results of carburetor icing are classified as no icing, visible icing, and serious icing. Visible icing could not be detected by observation because the carburetor and engine supercharger were not accessible for visual inspection but manifold-pressure and air-flow loss indicated this type of icing. It is therefore possible that small ice formations were present in some runs classified as no icing, which fell into the visible-icing region as determined from laboratory icing tests. The criterion for sorious icing in the ground tests was similar to that used in the laboratory tests of reference 1, that is, a 2-percent reduction of initial air flow within the period of the test. Although the test period of the ground tests was only 10 minutes, the ground tests were comparable with the laboratory tests because the air-flow reduction (if any) usually occurred within the first 10 minutes of operation in the laboratory tests.

The limiting-icing-condition curves of carburetor-air temperature and moisture content as determined in the laboratory (reference 1) for the low cruise, high cruise, and rated power conditions of engine operation are reproduced in figures 6, 7, and 8, respectively. The conditions at the carburetor deck produced by the operation of the engine during the ground tests are presented on these limiting-condition curves for the corresponding engine powers.

The tomperatures and moisture contents of the charge air at the scoop entrance during all the tests with simulated-rain injection were such that sovere icing would have occurred at or downstream of the carburotor had the air stream passed directly to the carburetor. The removal of water by the induction system and the heat input by the turbesupercharger produced less severe conditions at the carburetor and only at low cruise power were the conditions at the carburetor deck in the serious-icing region. As indicated in figure 6, the ground-test runs that produced carburetor-deck conditions within the laboratory-determined seriousicing range resulted in serious carbureter icing. Time histories of the low-cruise-power runs in which there were indications of icing are shown in figure 9. Ground tests at low cruiso power that showed either indications of slight icing (fig. 9(b)) or no indications of icing fell in the laboratory-determined visibloicing region (fig. 6).

Data from ground tests at high cruise power when plotted on the corresponding laboratory-determined limiting-conditions curves (fig. 7) also show that the runs that indicated slight icing (figs. 10(a) and 10(b)) fall in the visible-icing region and that one run, which showed no indication of icing, fell into the no-visible-icing region. No high-cruise-power runs produced carburetor-dock conditions conducivé to serious icing and none of the runs displayed symptoms of serious icing.

The runs at normal rated power that showed no indication of icing fell in the region of visible icing, as shown in figure 5. The one run made with simulated excessive-rain rate, however, did show symptoms of serious icing (fig. 10(c)) but this indication of serious icing may have been caused by an unstable engine condition or it may be a borderline serious-icing condition because it is very close to the serious-icing region (fig. 8).

The test results indicate that there is a close correlation between the laboratory-determined limiting conditions and the carbureter-deck conditions, which produce the different classes of icing in the airplane-engine induction system during ground experation. If the effect of the different components of the induction system on the temperature and humidity of the air stream is known, the susceptibility of the induction system to icing can be predicted.

Icing other than the previously mentioned carbureter icing occurred in the induction system during the ground tests. Small formations of impact icing occurred at the bend in the air-scoop intake and around the alternate air valve leading into the whoel well and some formations occurred in the intercooler cooling-air duct. The formations of ice were small, but difficulty in opening the alternate cir valve was encountered in those runs in which ice had formed around the valve.

## SULFARY OF RESULTS

The following results were obtained from ground tests made on a twin-engine fighter airplane under artificial conditions representing only an approximate simulation of flight:

- 1. The induction system of the airplane removed the free water from the charge-air stream before it reached the carbureter deck except when excessive rain equivalent to 2.0 grams per cubic meter was encountered when the engine was operated at manifold pressures of 40 inches of mercury or higher.
- 2. Approximately 85 percent of the heat added to the charge air by the turbosupercharger was available for ice prevention or de-icing at the carbureter when the intercooler flap was closed.
- 3. The results of the ground tests were in agreement with the limiting-icing curves determined in the laboratory.

Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory, Fetional Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Cloveland, Chio.

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Run	Duration (min)	Pressure altitude (ft)	frue free-air temperature (OF)	Air density (slugs/ou ft)	Density ratio	Simulated rain	Engine speed (rpm)	Menifold pressure (in. Hg absolute)	Mixture setting	Charge-air flow (lb/hr)	Fuel flow (lb/hr)	Puel-air ratio	Throttle opening (deg)	Waste-gate opening (deg)	Intercooler-flap position	Fuel at injection	Supercharger inlet mixture	Center manifold mixture	Gooling air	Alternate air		Spray water Water drained from interacoler (lb/min)	Free water observed flowing to inter-	Free water observed flowing to carbu- retor	Manifold pressure drop (in. Hg absolute)	Loss in charge- air flow (percent)
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Automatic rich. blo water sprayed into intercooler duct.

TABLE 1 - Concluded

RESULTS OF GROUND TESTS OF AIRPLANE INDUCTION SYSTEM - Concluded

Station 1	Station 2	Station 3 Station 4			
ture	air) perature sure	Dew-point temperature (OP) Dry-bulb temperature (OP) Wet-bulb temperature (OF) Relative hundity (percent) Static pressure (in. Hg absolute) Air density (ib,cu ft) Vapor content (ib,lb dry air) Air velocity (ft,sec)	Dew-point temperature  (oF)  Dry-bulb temperature (oF)  Wet-bulb temperature (oF)  Relative humidity (percent)  Static pressure (in. Hg absolute)  Air density (ib/u ft)  Wapor content (ib/lb dry air)  Enthalpy (Btu/Lb dry air)  Air velocity (ft/sec)		
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		Series C	24 51 40 34 29.7 0.07698 0.00264 15.3 28		
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		Series E	33 47 41 60 29.0 0.07585 0.00400 15.7 32		
2 31 30 30 100 28.7 .07778 .00376 11 3 32 30 30 100 28.8 .07791 .00393 11 4 30 33 32 90 28.8 .07790 .00350 11 5 31 32 32 100 28.8 .07760 .00376 11 6 31 33 32 90 28.8 .07744 .00376 11 7 30 35 33 82 28.9 .07744 .00357 11 8 30 34 33 90 28.9 .07750 .00357 11		9   33   50   42   50   29.1   .07561   .00400   16.4   36   36   35   49   42   55   29.1   .07576   .00435   16.4   36   36   44   41   78   28.1   .07395   .00475   15.6   108   36   43   40   78   28.1   .07410   .00475   15.6   108   33   36   46   42   72   28.1   .07366   .00475   16.3   110   13   14   57   49   55   29.9   .07669   .00548   19.6   18   13   44   55   49   65   29.8   .07689   .00615   20.0   178	35         53         44         47         29.0         .07496         .00400         17.2         32           34         53         44         47         29.0         .07496         .00420         17.3         32           38         45         42         79         27.4         .07195         .00530         16.7         98           38         47         43         74         27.4         .07166         .00530         17.1         99           40         47         43         74         27.8         .07281         .00550         17.2         167           42         53         47         65         27.8         .07196         .00595         19.1         168		

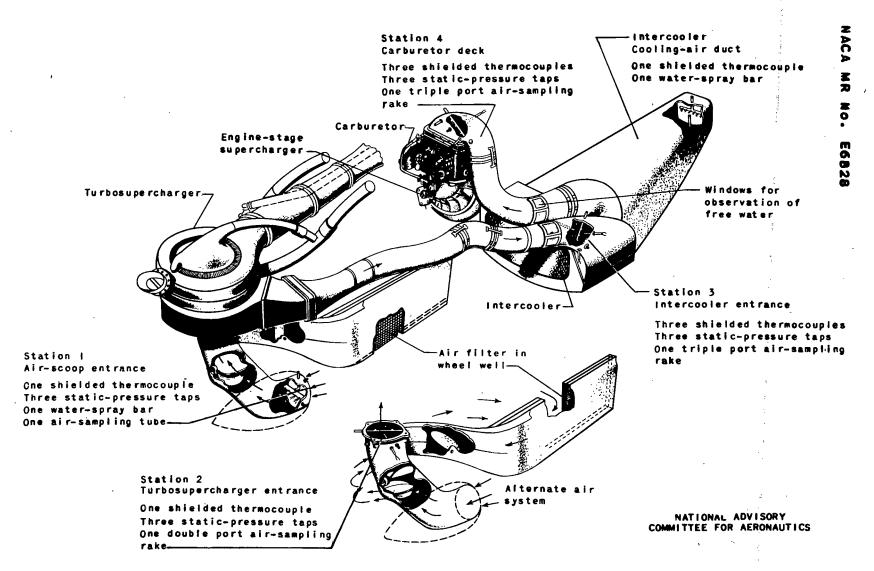


Figure 1. - Right-engine induction system of a twin-engine fighter airplane instrumented for ground icing tests.

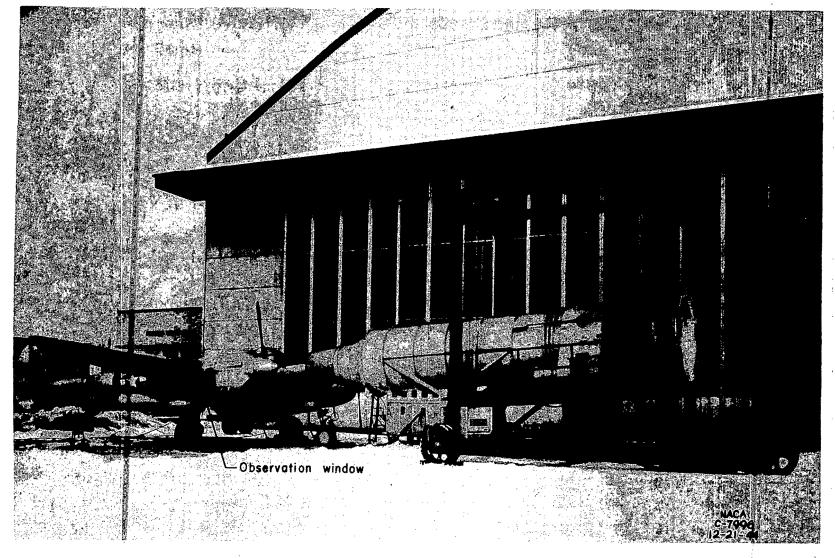


Figure 2. - Setup for ground tests of induction-system icing.

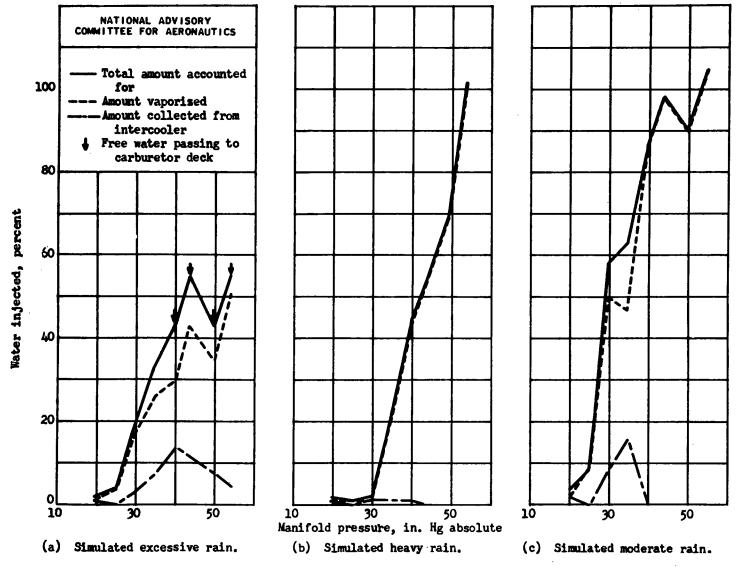


Figure 3. - Disposition of ingested rain in the induction system.

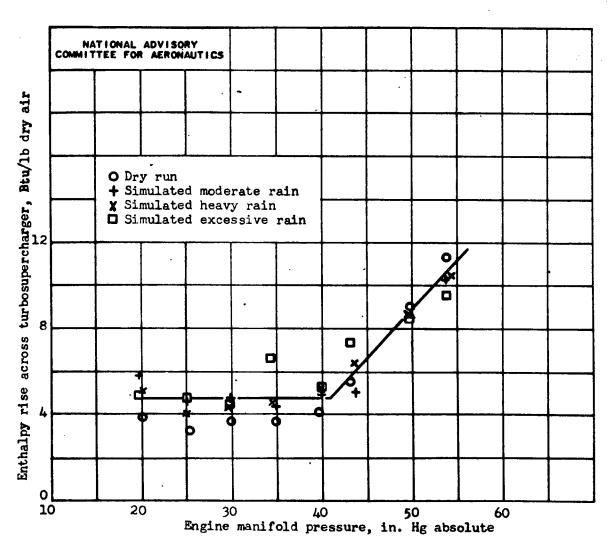


Figure 4. - Enthalpy increase across turbosupercharger in ground icing tests.



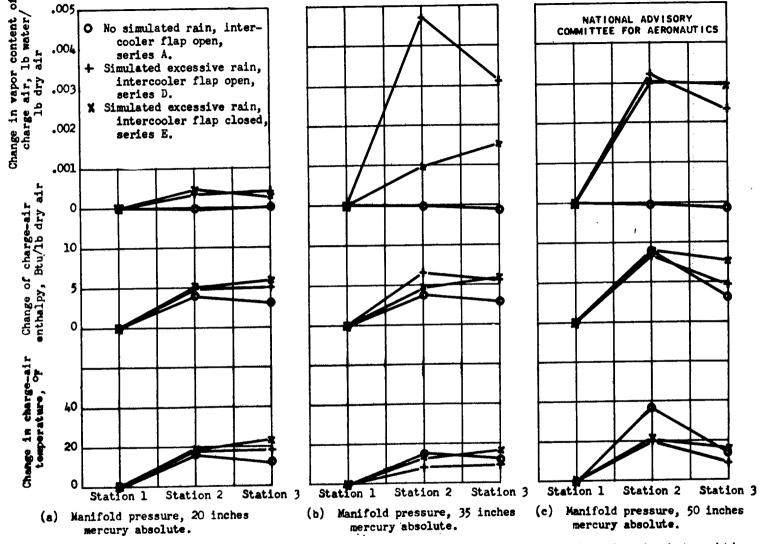
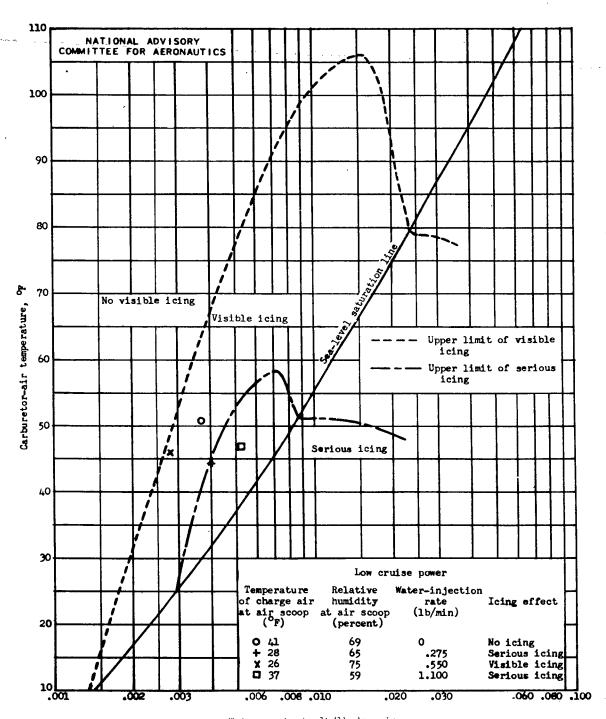


Figure 5. - Effect of induction system on charge air with varying simulated-rain intensities and engine power settings.



Water content, lb/lb dry air
Figure 6. - Comparison of laboratory and ground icing tests at low cruise power.

(Curves from laboratory tests of reference I.)

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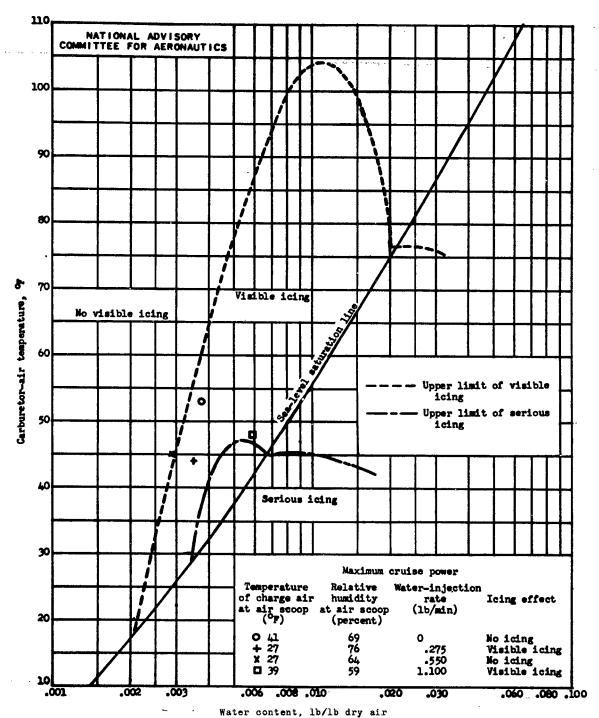


Figure 7. - Comparison of laboratory and ground icing tests at high cruise power. (Curves from laboratory tests of reference !.)

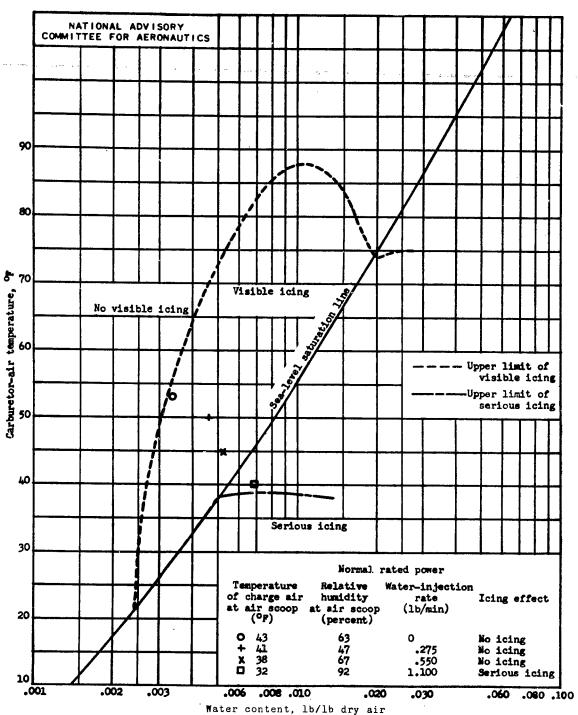


Figure 8. - Comparison of laboratory and ground icing tests at normal rated power.

(Curves from laboratory tests of reference 1.)

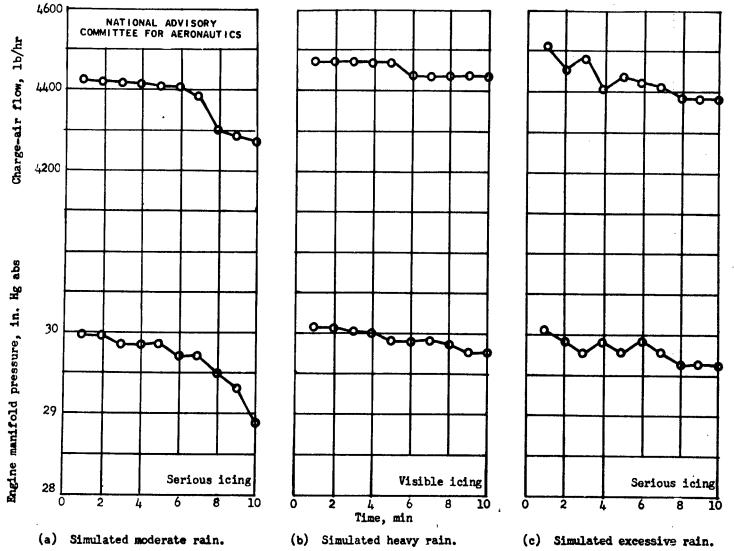


Figure 9. - Induction-system icing at low cruise power.

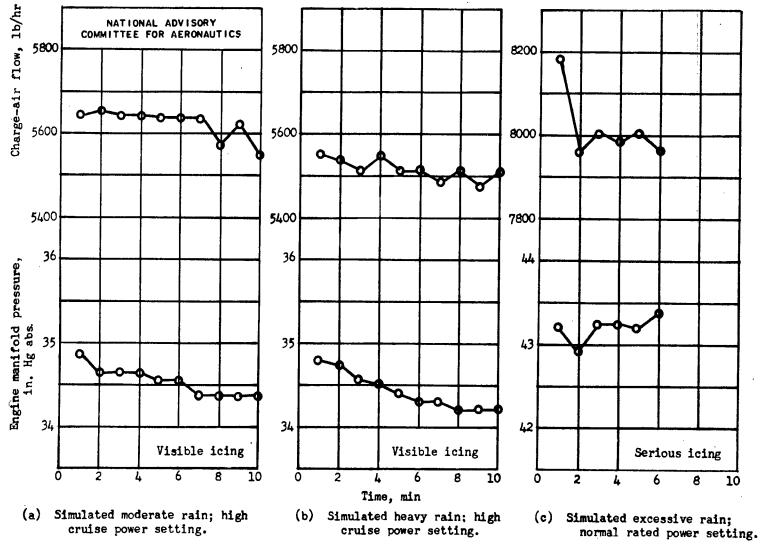


Figure 10. - Induction-system icing at high cruise and normal rated conditions of engine power.

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